

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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1. Nikolai L. Bebenin, Chief of USIG, and Ossyadovski (inu), former Russian Director of Siemens-Planitz, Berlin-Lichtenberg, departed by rail for the Soviet Union on 1 April 1954. Their departure from the Ostbahnhof in East Berlin was attended by a large delegation of Siemens-Planitz officials as well as other officials of the former SAG plants in East Germany.
2. The office which Ossyadovski had used at the Siemens-Planitz factory as his personal office since 1 January 1954 has now been turned over to Gerhard Gromotka, who is known as the "Personal Referent" for Plant Director Henry Henrion. Henrion, Maronn, who is the First Party Secretary for the SED Plant Organization, and Oskar Hauser, head of the Laboratory and simultaneously Second Secretary of the Plant SED Group, have been attending the Fourth SED Party Congress in Berlin since 30 March and have been absent from the plant the entire time of the Congress. Herbert Senoner, who is the Commercial Director, and Gromotka have been handling the top administrative work of the Siemens management offices.
3. Firm orders to cover the capacity of the silicon carbide plant, the electric brush plant and the carbon arc plant during the second quarter of 1954 have been received. The Siemens-Planitz management is at a loss as yet, however, to plan production of other types of electrodes and industrial furnaces during the second quarter, since this capacity has not been covered by a sufficient number of export orders to insure economical operation. As a result, the management has now been attempting to pick up all types of miscellaneous small orders for electrodes to round out their commercial order coverage of the production capacity, which will otherwise be forced to close down for lack of orders.
4. One of the severest handicaps now being met by the Lichtenberg plant in sales of their electrodes to non-Soviet bloc countries is an increased insistence by prospective customers on high technical specifications of quality, which the Siemens-Planitz plant is not able to meet, particularly in the electrode field.

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25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] The Lichtenberg  
25X1 plant does not have the necessary equipment for producing electrodes with  
25X1 conical nipples, and since acquisition of such machinery was not included  
25X1 in the 1954 economic plan for Siemens, the plant now finds itself unauthor-  
25X1 ized to make the expenditures for the modification of the existing machinery.  
25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] The Lichtenberg plant has equipment to produce  
only cylindrical nipple electrodes. It is also having difficulties meeting  
the quality standards of the graphite electrodes [redacted]  
mainly because it is being supplied with low grade raw materials.

5. Since the departure from Berlin of Dr. Johann Gieth, former chief of the laboratory and inventor of the copper-powder production process being used by the Berlin-Lichtenberg plant for supply of copper powder for the electric brush division, the plant has been experiencing increasing difficulty with the production of this item. The present supervisor of this program, Dr. Scheffler (fnu), does not understand the process well enough to iron out the difficulties which have been arising. These difficulties are mainly due to the lack of uniformity in raw material specifications and to the failure of the plant to test raw materials before using them. In general, raw materials received from East German supplier plants vary greatly in technical purity, and commercial deliveries are seldom checked for purity and standard specifications prior to use in commercial production at the plant.
6. On 5 April a group of Soviet officials were reported to have visited the plant in connection with the negotiation of a new order for 3,000,000 DME worth of silicon carbide electrodes for delivery during the fourth quarter of 1954. Nothing definite has yet come of the discussions. The Siemens management is anxious to obtain the order, however, since it would cover the uncommitted fourth quarter silicon carbide production capacity of the plant.

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